



Issue 40:  
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### Events calendar:

- **29 July**—*A visit to Tabley House* at Knutsford and Eaton Hall in Cheshire. Details from [ijackson@liv.ac.uk](mailto:ijackson@liv.ac.uk)
- **20 August**—*Annual Summer Garden Party* at Hope Valley, with additional visits to Dolfor grotto and Leighton Hall Poultry House, Shropshire. Details from [webmaster@follies.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@follies.org.uk)
- **24 September**—*Herefordshire Ramble*, with visits to Cadmore Millennium Tower, Westonbury Water Gardens and Hampton Court. Details from [pfgodfrey@gmail.com](mailto:pfgodfrey@gmail.com)
- **16 October**—*'Burt's Bits: A tour of George Burt's follies'* at Swanage, Dorset. Details from [jm.holt@virgin.net](mailto:jm.holt@virgin.net)

### Heritage Open Days:

- **8-11 September**—*England* Details from [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)
- **All weekends in September**—*Wales* Details from [www.civictrustwales.org](http://www.civictrustwales.org)
- **All weekends in September**—*Scotland* Details from [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)
- **10-11 September**—*Northern Ireland* Details from [www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

### The Folly Fellowship

Articles, pictures, comments and feedback for the e-Bulletin should be sent to [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk). All other correspondence should be sent to [membership@follies.org.uk](mailto:membership@follies.org.uk).

# The Gazebos of New England - II



Larz Anderson Pavilion, Brookline, Massachusetts. Photo: Brunitoro, Wikipedia

**L**arz Anderson Park in Brookline, Massachusetts was created by the socialite heiress Isabel Weld Perkins and her Paris-born diplomat husband, after whom the Park is named. It covers an area of 26ha (64 acres) and was laid out soon after the couple acquired the land in 1899.

Isabel was a member of the philanthropic Weld family who had farmed this area of New England since their arrival there in the 17th century. She was a direct descendant of Edmund Weld (1559-1608) of Sudbury (Suffolk), whose three sons were among the first settlers

to arrive in Boston, and was possibly descended from William Weld, the Sheriff of London in 1352.

When the Andersons bought the estate it was centred on a twenty-five-room mansion, which they remodelled on Lulworth Castle (Dorset) in the belief that Isabel was related to the Weld family who owned it. They then used the house as their summer residence, and the place where they spent their Christmas holidays.

The landscape was created by Charles A. Platt, who was better known as an architect than he was a landscape designer. He proba-



Larz Anderson Park, Brookline, MA  
 Above: The Water Garden and Temple  
*Photo: Lorianne DiSabato on Flickr*  
 Left: The Japanese Garden  
*Photo: Library of Congress, Washington*

bly added the vast Carriage House and the Classical 'Temple of Love' beside the lake, and may have had a hand in the design of the vast cast iron gazebo with its four radiating pergolas (see below). It is unlikely that he had a hand in the design of the Chinese or Japanese gardens, both of which appeared after Larz had been appointed as America's Ambassador to Japan.

When Isabel Anderson died in 1948, the estate was left to the



now form part of the grounds to Brookline High School.

Just as tall as the cast iron gazebo, and equally curious was the three-storey gazebo-cum-observatory at Joseph Potter's estate at Framingham (Mass). Potter was a wealthy businessman who seems to have enjoyed himself at home, building himself a garden that was said to resemble an amusement park bursting with garden structures. None of them survive today.

Forest Hall (also known as the Barrett House) in New Ipswich (Mass) is an impressive mansion in the Federal (classical) style. It was built in 1800 as a wedding present for Charles Barrett and his bride by his wealthy father, who seems to have invested in most of the local business ventures of the time. It was left to Charles and his bride to plant the gardens, including an impressive alleé of Maples that lead to a gazebo atop a flight

Left: The cast iron gazebo at Larz Anderson Park c.1900. Right: The Observatory Tower at Framingham, c.1880

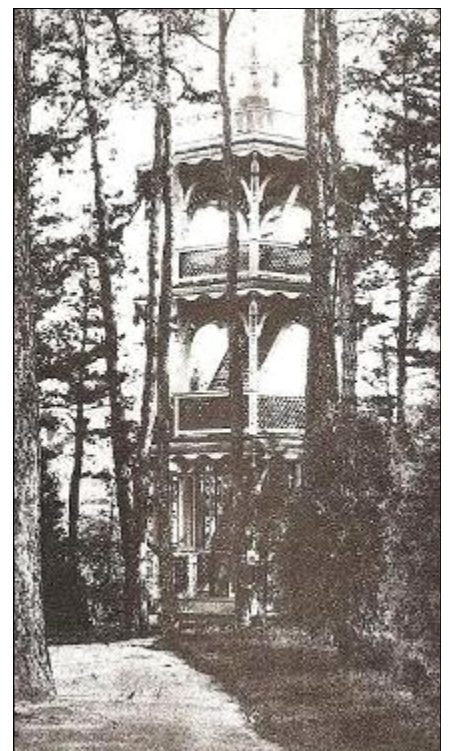
*Photos: Library of Congress, Washington*



The gazebo at Forest Hall  
*Photo: Daderot on Wikipedia*

of steps (above).

The town of Belfast (Maine) sits at the mouth of the Passagassawakeag river, and is home to an fascinating group of mansions built in the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles, all of which are best seen by joining one of the Belfast Historical Society's walking tours. One of them is James Patterson White's house at 19 Church Street, designed in the 1840s by the architect Calvin Ryder in the Greek Revival style. At some time around 1850 a colourful Gothick Revival gazebo was built in the gardens with a green-painted roof that resembles an over-sized sombrero (next page—top left).





The summerhouses at 91 High Street (above centre), 98 High Street (above right) in Newburyport (Mass), and the summerhouse (below right) at 117 Cabot Street in Beverly (Mass).  
Photos: Library of Congress, Washington

By the end of the 19th century new ideas were emerging about landscape design, led mainly by an Arcadian ideal promoted by Frederick Law Olmstead (1822-1903). He is considered by many to be the father of American landscape design, but most academics attribute the title to Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-52). Nonetheless, Olmstead (with Calvert Vaux) is well-known for designing many of the better-known urban parks in North America, including Central Park and Prospect Park in New York.

It was Olmstead who added the gazebo-cum-teahouse at Moraine Farm (719 Cabot Street, Beverly, Mass) in the 1880s, which he set above a rustic stone arch known as 'the grotto'. It was all part of his improvement of the 275-acre park belonging to John Phillips, which

Olmstead saw as serving part private and part public interests. In the end his scheme was based on his idea of an 'English country retreat' (Frederick Law Olmstead.com).

An example of this European influence can be seen at The Elms in Newport, Rhode Island, where the architect Horace Trumbauer designed a 'summer cottage' for the coal baron Edward Berwind. Built between 1899 and 1901, the limestone mansion is a copy of the Château d'Asnières-sur-Seine in the north-west suburbs of Paris.

The gardens were laid out by C H Miller and E W Bowditch, working closely with Trumbauer. Together they created a sunken garden flanked by two teahouses in the French classical style (see below). They also added a large stables and carriage house that was later converted to a garage. When



the family changed from carriages to automobiles, the head coachman retrained as the chauffeur but is said to have never mastered the art of reversing. Taking pity on him, the family later installed a turntable before demolishing the building in favour of a purpose-built garage measuring 38 x 21 metres, and said to be the largest private garage in America.

Bar Harbor occupies the north-eastern corner of Mount Desert Island of the coast of Maine. In 1947 many of its historic properties were destroyed in a fire that began on 17 October and lasted for twenty-eight days. One of the survivors was a timber-framed and domed gazebo that once formed part of the grounds of R H Robertson's mansion. The gazebo is now believed to have been lost.



THE ELMS, TEA HOUSE AND GARDEN, RESIDENCE OF E. J. BERWIND, NEWPORT, R. I.

# The Wedding Cake House at Kennebunk



In 1825, the Maine shipbuilder George Washington Bourne (1801-56) bought the Federal style mansion at 104 Summer Street in Kennebunk as a home for him and his new bride. Some time later he added a timber barn and carriage house. In 1852 a fire engulfed the carriage house requiring its demolition before the flames spread to Bourne's house.

A little while after the fire, having rebuilt the fire-damaged carriage house, Bourne embarked on a tour of European cities, stopping off in the Italian city of Milan. There he is said to have been struck by the Gothic splendour of the Duomo di Milano, so-much-so that when he returned to America he quickly summoned his apprentice ship's carpenter (Thomas Durrell) and set about remodelling his house in honour of the great cathedral.

Adding timber buttresses, ogee arches, sprocketed, pinnacles and fretwork, caused many locals to name the style 'Carpenter Gothic', with the house eventually acquiring the nickname of The Wedding Cake House. After he retired from shipbuilding, Bourne continued to work on the house, adding more and more until he died.

By 1983 the house was lived in by the last of Bourne's descendants and was in a poor state of repair. It was purchased by Mary and Anne Burnett who set about restoring the building in 1984.

Over time a story has evolved claiming that Bourne altered his house as an apology to his wife for failing to take her on honeymoon. Amusing though it is, the local history society says that there is no evidence to support this.

Today, the mansion is said to be the most photographed house in the State of Maine.

# The Norumbega Tower

Prof. Eben Norton Horsford was an amateur archaeologist who believed that in 1000 AD the Viking Leif Erikson rowed his longboat up the Charles River and claimed North America for the Norwegians. He was convinced that Erikson settled at Cambridge (Mass) and built a house on the banks of the river. To prove his point he excavated where he believed the house to have been and unsurprisingly discovered a few buried artefacts there.

In 1889 he built a thin stone tower close to the mouth of the Stony Brook where he believed that the Vikings had established a fort and a city. He then claimed it was the legendary golden city of Norumbega, with 'Norbega' being an old name for Norway—there is no evidence to support this. At the same time, he also believed that America had been named after Erik the Red (935-1001), who did manage to sail to Greenland before dying there in 1001.

In fact, the name Norumbega is an Algonquian Indian name mean-



A lantern slide of the Norumbega Tower dated 1906. Photo: Library of Congress, Washington

ing 'quiet place between the rapids,' and Norbega is the name of a company manufacturing Coca-Cola in Spain.

A summary of Horsford's story is recorded on a plaque mounted to one side of his tower. His theory received little support from historians and archaeologists of the day, and even less today. Nonetheless, he has left us with a charming folly tower and enriched it with a wonderful legend.

Further information on Horsford's claims are published in his books:

- *The Landfall of Leif Erikson: AD 1000*
- *The Discovery of the Ancient City of Norumbega.*

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